First Regular Session Seventy-fifth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0582.01 Yelana Love x2295

HOUSE BILL 25-1205

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Brown,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Roberts,

House Committees Business Affairs & Labor **Senate Committees**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

102 FAIR ACCESS TO INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS PLANS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <u>http://leg.colorado.gov.</u>)

The bill clarifies that the fair access to insurance requirements plan association (association) is not:

- A department, unit, agency, political subdivision, or instrumentality of the state; or
- An insurance company or a person engaged in the business of insurance.

The bill also grants a member insurer, the association and its agents or employees, the board of directors of the association, and the commissioner of the division of insurance or the commissioner's representatives immunity for any action taken by them in the performance of their powers and duties. The bill specifies that the only causes of action and remedies available to a policyholder of a fair access to insurance requirements plan policy against the association is for breach of contract or breach of the common law covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

- 1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
- 2 SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-4-1804, amend
 3 (1), (2), and (3)(b); and add (1.5) as follows:

4 10-4-1804. Fair access to insurance requirements plan 5 association - creation - participation required. (1) There is created the 6 fair access to insurance requirements plan association, or FAIR plan 7 association, which is a nonprofit, unincorporated public LEGAL entity. All 8 member insurers are and remain members of the association as a 9 condition of each member insurer's authority to transact insurance 10 business in this state. The association shall perform its functions under a 11 plan of operation established and approved under section 10-4-1807 and 12 shall exercise its powers through a board of directors established under 13 section 10-4-1805.

14 (1.5) THE FAIR PLAN ASSOCIATION IS NOT A DEPARTMENT, UNIT, 15 AGENCY, POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE STATE. 16 ALL DEBTS, CLAIMS, OBLIGATIONS, AND LIABILITIES INCURRED BY THE 17 ASSOCIATION ARE THE DEBTS, CLAIMS, OBLIGATIONS, AND LIABILITIES OF 18 THE ASSOCIATION ONLY, AND ARE NOT THE DEBTS OR PLEDGES OF CREDIT 19 OF THE STATE OR THE STATE'S AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, OFFICERS, 20 OR EMPLOYEES. THE FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE NOT PART OF THE 21 GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE, AND THE STATE SHALL NOT BUDGET FOR OR 1 PROVIDE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION.

(2) The FAIR plan association is established to provide property
insurance coverage, including commercial property insurance, when such
coverage is not available from admitted companies. THE FAIR PLAN
ASSOCIATION IS NOT AN INSURANCE COMPANY OR A PERSON ENGAGED IN
THE BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.

7

(3) The FAIR plan association shall:

8 (b) Assess and share among member insurers, on a fair and 9 equitable basis, all expenses, income, and losses based on each member 10 insurer's written premium for property and commercial property insurance 11 AND IN THE SAME PROPORTION THAT A MEMBER INSURER'S PREMIUMS 12 WRITTEN BEAR TO THE AGGREGATE PREMIUMS WRITTEN IN THE STATE BY 13 ALL MEMBER INSURERS OF THE ASSOCIATION DURING THE PRECEDING 14 CALENDAR YEAR, consistent with this part 18.

15 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-4-1806, add (4)
16 as follows:

17 10-4-1806. FAIR plan - plan requirements - insurer
18 requirements. (4) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SUBJECTS THE FAIR PLAN
19 TO ANY PREMIUM TAX ASSESSED PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE 10.

20 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 10-4-1810.5 as
21 follows:

10-4-1810.5. Immunity - exceptions - remedies. (1) A MEMBER
INSURER, THE FAIR PLAN ASSOCIATION AND ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES,
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THE COMMISSIONER OR THE
COMMISSIONER'S REPRESENTATIVES ARE IMMUNE FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN
BY THEM IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES UNDER THIS
PART 18.

-3-

(2) (a) THE EXCLUSIVE CAUSES OF ACTION AND REMEDIES
 AVAILABLE TO A POLICYHOLDER OF A FAIR PLAN POLICY AGAINST THE
 ASSOCIATION IS FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT OR BREACH OF THE COMMON
 LAW COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING.

5 (b) A CLAIM FOR BREACH OF THE COMMON LAW COVENANT OF 6 GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING AGAINST THE ASSOCIATION REQUIRES 7 PROOF THAT THE ASSOCIATION ACTED UNREASONABLY AND THAT THE 8 ASSOCIATION KNEW OR RECKLESSLY DISREGARDED THAT THE 9 ASSOCIATION'S ACTIONS WERE UNREASONABLE.

10 (c) DAMAGES IN AN ACTION FOR A BREACH OF THE COVENANT OF
11 GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING ARE LIMITED TO COMPENSATORY
12 DAMAGES FOR ECONOMIC AND NONECONOMIC LOSSES. A COURT MAY
13 AWARD PUNITIVE DAMAGES ONLY IF THE ASSOCIATION'S BREACH WAS
14 ACCOMPANIED BY CIRCUMSTANCES OF FRAUD, MALICE, OR WILLFUL AND
15 WANTON CONDUCT.

16 (d) IF A POLICYHOLDER SUCCESSFULLY PROVES THAT THE 17 ASSOCIATION BREACHED THE COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR 18 DEALING, THE POLICYHOLDER IS ENTITLED TO ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS. 19 IF THE COURT FINDS THAT AN ACTION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THIS 20 SECTION WAS FRIVOLOUS, AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 17 OF TITLE 13, THE 21 COURT SHALL AWARD COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES TO THE ASSOCIATION. 22 SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, 23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate 24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for 25 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state 26 institutions.

HB25-1205

-4-